

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

SUB A27

1. A visitor information gathering apparatus, comprising:
 - a display;
 - at least one of a plurality of input devices;
 - a storage;
 - a processor; and
 - at least one of a plurality of sensors, wherein
 - said processor gathers information about visitors from said at least one of a plurality of input devices from responses made by said visitors to prompts provided by said processor through said display; and wherein said processor substantially contemporaneously gathers information about said visitors from said at least one of a plurality of sensors; and
 - wherein said processor stores said information about visitors into said storage.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said information about said visitors is gathered from said at least one of a plurality of sensors without said visitor being aware of said gathering.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a music playing device, wherein said processor controls playing of music to said visitors.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said information about visitors is at least one of a name, an organization represented by a visitor, a purpose of a visit, a date of a visit, a time of a visit, a person to be visited, an identity of a group of visitors visiting together.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said processor displays on said display at least one of a greeting, a slide show of product images, advertising, stock values, daily cartoons, and news.
6. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a scanner that scans at least one of a first side and a second side of a business card having printing on at least one of said first side and said second side; and wherein, responsive to detecting text on said at least one of said first side and said second side, said processor processes said text in accordance with a language of said text.

1 7. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a microphone, wherein
2 said microphone provides input of speech of said visitors.

1 8. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a video camera, wherein
2 said video camera provides input of images of said visitors.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a speaker, wherein said
2 speaker provides directions to said visitor.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising at least one of a plurality
2 of visitor wands, said visitor wands recording experiences of said visitors.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising biometric sensors, said
2 biometric sensors recording biometric information about said visitor.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a handwriting tablet, said
2 handwriting tablet providing a sample of handwriting of said visitors.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a security sensors, said
2 security sensors providing information about potential threats.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a telephone interface, said
2 telephone interface providing a telephone message to a person to be visited that said visitors
3 have arrived.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a web interface, said web
2 interface providing a readily accessible source of information gathered about said visitors.

1 16. A method for collecting information about visitors, said method
2 comprising:
3 gathering information about said visitors in an interactive session with an
4 automated kiosk;
5 placing said information into a format in which said information may be
6 stored;
7 storing said information for retrieval; and
8 automatically obtaining information about said visitor from at least one of a
9 plurality of sources.

SUB A37

24. A computer programming product for collecting information about visitors, said computer programming product comprising:

- code for gathering information about said visitors in an interactive session with an automated kiosk;
- code for placing said information into a format in which said information may be stored;
- code for storing said information for retrieval;
- code for obtaining information about said visitor from at least one of a plurality of sources;
- code for providing said information about said visitor and said information gathered at said kiosk to persons interested in said information; and
- a computer readable storage medium for holding the codes.

25. An apparatus for automatically populating a database, said apparatus comprising:

- a display;
- at least one of a plurality of input devices;
- a storage; and
- a processor, wherein said processor captures information from said at least one of a plurality of input devices, said information entered responsive to prompts provided by said processor through said display; and wherein said processor stores said information about visitors into said storage.

26. An apparatus of claim 25, wherein said information comprises personnel information about at least one of a plurality of employees, said storage further comprising a database for storing said personnel information.

27. An apparatus of claim 25, further comprising at least one of a plurality of sensory devices, said sensory devices operative to provide additional information which is incorporated into said personnel database, said additional information associated with said personnel information by at least one of a plurality of linkages.

28. An apparatus of claim 27, wherein said additional information comprises at least one of an image, a time of entering said personnel information.

1 29. An apparatus of claim 25, further comprising using said personnel
2 information to annotate documents.

1 30. An apparatus of claim 29, wherein using said personnel information to
2 annotate documents further comprises replacing at least one of a plurality of names with
3 hypertext links to said personnel information.

1 31. A method for providing an image, said method comprising:
2 automatically capturing at least one of a plurality of images of a person;
3 providing to said person said at least one of a plurality of images; and
4 receiving from said person an indication of a preferred image, said preferred
5 image selected from among said at least one of a plurality of images.

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ADD A4 >